

HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa



Grand Duchess Maria Teresa was born in Havana, Cuba, on 22 March 1956, to José Antonio Mestre and Maria Teresa Batista-Falla de Mestre.

In 1980 she graduated at the University of Geneva in political sciences.

Miss Mestre met Prince Henri at this University. She was the author of a report on the compared legislations within the EEC, on woman's work and on motherhood.

During the same period Maria Teresa Mestre took an ever increasing interest in social and human problems.

Miss Maria Teresa Mestre married Prince Henri of Luxembourg on February 14th, 1981.

They have 5 children, 4 sons and one daughter :

- *Prince Guillaume, born on November 11th, 1981*
- *Prince Félix, born on June 3rd, 1984*
- *Prince Louis, born on August 3rd, 1986*
- *Princess Alexandra, born on February 16th, 1991*
- *Prince Sébastien, born on April 16th, 1992*

Since 1997, the Grand Duchess acts as a Good-Will Ambassador of UNESCO and supports in this respect specifically organisations which are active in the field of micro-credits and child protection.

She has granted her patronage and active support notably to the Luxembourg League of Blind People, the National Nurses' Association and the Alzheimer Association of Luxembourg. She is furthermore chairing the Foundation Prince Henri-Princess Maria Teresa for the handicapped and occupying the Honorary Chair of the Foundation for Research on Aids.

She is member of the Council of Trustees of the Mentor Foundation (London) which is concentrating on the prevention of substance abuse among children and young people and which is maintaining a special relationship with World Health Organisation.

In October 1999, HRH Crown Princess Maria Teresa is named Docteur Honoris Causa to the Seton Hall University, School for diplomatics and international relations in the USA.